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A Bridge Between Needs and Funds

Local Asian Philanthropy Organization to Help Community

INSIDE: Fighting Prostitution * Chinese Zitherist * Education * Finance

THE SAMPAN

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NEWS

2000 Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council Public Election

When: Sunday, November 26 from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

Where: Sovereign Bank--the corner of Harrison Avenue and Beach Street.

Who: There are seven seats available for three-year terms. This year there are exactly seven candidates; therefore, there are no contested seats. The candidates and the categories in which they are running are listed below.

2 Seats in the Resident category:

Cathy Chan (for re-election)

Reverend Hugh H. O'Regan (for re-election)

(Candidates in this category must be residents of the neighborhood defined as the area bounded by a line running down the center of the following streets: from East Berkeley St., Tremont St., Charles St., Boylston St., West St., Washington St., Bedford St., Kingston St., Surface Artery, and to East Berkeley St.)

1 Seat in the Agency category:

Hung Goon (for re-election) >Goon is affiliated with the Kwong Kow Chinese School.

(Candidates for the Agency category must be from an agency that is legally recognized to provide services i.e. economic, health, educational, recreational, religious, cultural and/or social, located in the Chinatown/South Cove area. Candidates must have a letter of nomination from their agency.)

1 Seat in the Organization category:

Edwin Chui (for re-election) Chui is affiliated with the Chinese Business Association.

Albert Li (new candidate) Li is affiliated with the Que Sing Music Club.

(Candidates for the Organization category must be Asian and belong to a recognized, functioning, community entity in existence for more than three years and providing membership to Asians for fraternal, social, recreational, and/or cultural advantages for Asians.

1 Seat in the Business category:

Mary Soo Hoo (for re-election) Soo Hoo is affiliated with the Chinatown Cafe.

(Candidates for the Business category must be a business owner or shareholder (at least 10%) of a legitimate business with proper verification located in Chinatown/South Cove neighborhood.)

1 Seat in the Others category:

Jason Chung (for re-election)

(Candidates for the Others category must be of Asian ethnicity who has shown great interest and participation in the Chinatown/South Cove neighborhood affairs but live elsewhere in the State of the Commonwealth.)

LOCAL

Exit-Poll Results Confirm Needs in Asian Communities

On November 7, the Asian American Studies Program of the University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMass-Boston) in collaboration with the Multilingual Voting Rights Coalition conducted an exit-poll survey of Asian voters in Chinatown, Dorchester and Lowell. The efforts of staff and volunteers from the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), the Coalition of Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY) and students from UMass-Boston's Asian American Studies Program and the College of Public and Community Service yielded over 250 completed surveys. Two hundred seventeen surveys came from Chinatown. Smaller numbers of surveys were conducted in Dorchester (21) and Lowell (24) though.

The survey was done in order to find out about three aspects of Asian voters in the metro-Boston area, according to Dr. Madhulika S. Khandelwal, a member of the Asian American Studies faculty at UMass-Boston.

First, they wanted to find out what the need for language assistance was and whether bal-

lots need to be translated for voters. Second, they wanted to find out how many people had registered to vote over the past few years. Finally, they wanted to find out how Asians voted this year and what issues were important to them. The initial results are listed below.

Asian Voters in Chinatown: Of the 217 respondents, 148 needed language assistance to understand the voting procedures. One hundred fifty-five needed ballots translated into their own language. While many were long-time voters, about half were registered in the last few years, and they were voting for the first time in a national election. One hundred eighty respondents voted for Gore; 11 voted for Bush, 4 voted for an independent candidate, and 22 declined to answer.

Asian voters in Dorchester: Of the 21 respondents (primarily Vietnamese, a few other Asians) 13 needed language assistance to understand the voting procedures. Thirteen needed ballots translated into their own language. The majority voted in national elections for the first time. Nine of the respondents voted for Gore; 8 voted for Bush, and 4 declined to vote.

Asian voters in Lowell: Of the 24 respondents (primarily Cambodian and some Laotians) 14 needed lan-

guage assistance to understand the voting procedures. Thirteen needed ballots translated into their own language. The majority voted for the first time in a national election. A number of them indicated being registered to vote in the last year. Twenty of the respondents voted for Gore; 1 voted for Bush, and 3 declined to answer.

The results confirmed what was believed about Asian voters. "It's very clear that Asians need language assistance for voting," said Khandelwal. The results can help Asian community organizations push for translators at the polls for future elections. Results also showed that most Asians have only recently registered. A clearer picture, besides apparent Democrat leanings, of the issues that interest Asians will be finalized when the surveys have been completely tallied. The initial results show that more Asians are registering to vote and getting politically involved, said Khandelwal.

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COVER STORY

Making Connections

Local Chapter of National APA Philanthropy Organization to Help Community

By Eric William Schramm

Asian American and Pacific Islander American community-based organizations say they're not getting their share of foundation grants, and they may be right.

According to a 1992 report, "Invisible and in Need," conducted by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), such agencies may be receiving as little as 0.2 percent of the annual foundation grants awarded in the United States.

"Many looked at us [Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans] and thought we didn't have any needs. This report found that there was considerable need, but we were not on many foundations' radar screens," said Lori Villarosa, chair of the board of directors of AAPIP.

Some reasons for this lack of attention, noted Villarosa, were due to the model minority myth and a belief among grant-makers that the Asian community took care of their own issues internally.

Putting Asian American and Pacific Islander American (APA) organizations on the "radar screens" for foundation grants has been the goal of AAPIP and other APA community-based organizations (CBO) throughout the nation. Since forming, AAPIP has grown considerably. It now boasts 300 members, including foundation people, individual donors, chapters, and people involved in CBOs, said Villarosa.

Soon, Boston-based APA organizations will have an opportunity to join together to solicit more foundation grants. On December 1, the Massachusetts AAPIP chapter will hold its "Coming Out" inaugural meeting and educational event at the China Pearl Restaurant.

The event will celebrate a process that has been long in coming. "A few years ago AAPIP came to Boston to look at the possibility of starting a chapter. But, there weren't enough Asians in foundations," said Meizhu Lui, coordinator at Health Care for All and a founding member of the Massachusetts chapter. "Recently we've found more Asians on foundation staffs. There were three of us three years ago. Now, there are ten to twelve."

It was this core group, a few others and some individual donors that met with Moira Shek, executive director of AAPIP, at the end of June. Shek gave a presentation about AAPIP and discussed the role of foundations and APA community-based organizations, according to Shirley Mark, program director at the Schott Foundation and founding member of the Massachusetts chapter.

Later, a group of 20 met on August 31 and voted to establish the new chapter. At first, the chapter will work in Eastern Massachusetts, but it intends on helping APA communities in Central and Western Massachusetts as well.

A characteristic that distinguishes the members of the Massachusetts chapter, whether they work for foundations or not, is that many of them have personal contact with the Asian community, according to Mark and Lui. Their interest in helping Asian CBOs prosper has a personal touch to it.

Furthermore, standing in a position between the CBOs and the foundations and donors, AAPIP has an opportunity to connect the two groups.

"Asian CBOs and foundations would like to know each other better, but they don't know how to go about it. We would like to play a bridging role between them," said Lui.

Additionally, through building these bridges, the Massachusetts chapter of AAPIP can address the problems that plague the relationship between foundations and APA organizations. The major problems can be categorized into four main areas:

- * Few APAs work for foundations.
- * A lack of communication between foundations and CBOs.
- * Inexperience in cultivating relationships with foundations.
- * Few APAs give to CBOs.

Learning about the community

"There needs to be an increase in the number of Asians working in foundations," said Lui.

Just a few years ago there were only two APAs working in Boston foundations, according to Mark, but, recently, the number has risen to about 10. Still, there are too few APAs in grant-maker positions.

This lack of Asians on foundation staffs is an initial impediment to creating stronger relationships between CBOs and foundations. Foundation staffs without Asians may be less familiar with the Asian communities. This contributes to the second problem: foundations don't know what the needs of the Asians communities are.

"MANY LOOKED AT US [ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS] AND THOUGHT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY NEEDS. THIS REPORT FOUND THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE NEED, BUT WE WERE NOT ON MANY FOUNDATIONS' RADAR SCREENS."

--LORI VILLAROSA

This lack of knowledge can stop grant proposals written by Asian CBOs early in the selection process conducted by program officers. These officers are responsible for looking through and deciding on which applications get selected.

"Program officers who don't know the community may see a proposal that is different and they may throw it out. The program officers need to get training in cultural competency for the Asian communities," said Lui.

Along with not understanding what the specific needs of the APA communities are, foundations are unfamiliar with the ways that APAs give to their community.

Esther Lee, director of development at South Cove Community Health Center (SCCHC), organized two seminars with the Lowell Institute Asian American Forum in October last year and in March this year to bring foundations and Asian CBOs together. The seminars were held to raise awareness of giving in the APA community and to help foundations understand how Asians give.

It's important for foundations to know that Asians do not ignore their own community, but that they give to it in ways unfamiliar to the mainstream.

"Philanthropy is an esoteric term. Asian families have a strong history of giving, but it is in a family and community context. They send money home and help their families locally. Giving for tax-deductible purposes is new," said Mark.

If foundations do make overtures to learn about APA communities, then they must be aware of the fact that 'Asian' refers to a wide range of cultures. It's important for these grant-makers to recognize that not all Asian communities are the same, according to Lui.

It's also important for foundations to know that there are Asian CBOs that are trying to reach out to them.

"Our exposure is so minimal. The foundations don't know we exist or what we need or how to reach us," said Lee, adding, "I'm just a beginner trying to reach them."

However, AAPIP will be able to offer help. "Hopefully, AAPIP can give awareness to foundations and donors about how to reach us," said Lee.

Cultivating relationships

The third problem--weak or non-existent relationships between foundations and Asian CBOs--is fueled by

uncertainty among the CBOs. The complexity of the process of applying for funding is a primary cause for the difficult relationship with the foundations.

The whole process of getting money, completing applications, dealing with unfamiliar procedures, knowing what to promise and how to show accomplishments, keeping a tight budget, and relating to program officers are things that hold back the CBOs, said Lui.

This type of unease with the process can put APA organizations at a disadvantage in getting funding and competing with other mainstream organizations that are looking for funding. This is especially the case with programs that have crossover with the mainstream.

"CBOs need to be able to explain how their programs are different from the mainstream. For instance, with domestic violence, in the mainstream it's seen as a woman's issue. In the Asian community, it's seen as a family issue. So, CBOs need to explain to funders that their programs need to be different," said Lui.

Being called upon to make such explanations does not make CBOs comfortable. Mark has heard CBOs explain their discomfort with foundations. Yet, strong relationships with these staff members can be helpful to more inexperienced organizations.

"[CBOs] feel intimidated and uncomfortable. There is a need for more discussions about the relationship with foundation staff. Because CBOs are dependent on foundations for funding, it's difficult to understand the relationship," said Mark. "They fear that if they are really honest about what they're facing and ask for help, then they might lose their funding."

While cultural differences may be at play in the uneasy relationship between foundations and Asian CBOs, Mark said another issue is the matter of power.

"It's not so cultural, as it's the power dynamics. It's really important to get to know each foundation that you work with, because the foundations are different and have different expectations. Some foundations will welcome regular relations and offer feedback. Others will write the check and let you do what you want to do," said Mark, adding, "CBOs shouldn't look solely at foundations as a source of funding. They can also be helpful."

If it's the relationship that needs to be improved on between foundations and CBOs, then Lee said that the AAPIP could play a special role: matchmaker. The organization will give the technical assistance, training and funding to teach CBOs how to approach foundations, said Lee.

Finding donors

Because some APAs aren't accustomed to the Western style of philanthropy, and give in a more traditional manner as noted above, the fourth challenge of AAPIP is to get more Asian individual donors involved. Chau-Ming Lee, executive director of the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) questioned whether Asian immigrants would accept the Western concept of philanthropy.

Villarosa noted that individual donors in the Asian communities could be cultivated by teaching them about strategic giving. This type of giving can be more constructive than giving donations randomly and intermittently. Through learning about what is going on in the Asian communities as well as their needs, the individual donor will be able to better decide what interests they will support with their gifts. As a result, their donations can make a greater impact on the recipients, especially when combined with other donations.

Just as relationships between foundations and CBOs need to be cultivated so do the donors' relationships with the CBOs. Esther Lee said that some Asian donors might not even know about the tax deductions, which could encourage contributions, nor about planned giving, which is done posthumously.

Continued on p. 4

The Sampan

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COVER STORY

Connections . . . , Continued from p 3.

"We can't assume that people have a high level of knowledge about [giving]. They need to be told about these things," said Lee.

Lee also pointed to Massachusetts' last place national ranking in charitable giving as evidence that it is not only Asians who are not involved in giving. This is where the AAPIP could help CBOs.

"As a CBO, we want to know how we can work in generating contributions within the Asian community and in helping young donors find causes that they identify with," said AACA's Lee.

"THE AACA'S ROLE [IN THE EVENT] IS TO CONTACT AS MANY CBOs AS POSSIBLE; I HOPE WE HAVE A GREAT TURNOUT FROM THEM."

--CHAU-MING LEE

In the beginning

While having impeded APA community-based organizations' attempts to communicate better with foundations in the past, the above problems may be overcome through the AAPIP's bridge building gestures. The Massachusetts chapter has developed its own goals (see sidebar) with these problems in mind.

The "Coming Out" event in December will be not only a chance to introduce the chapter to the community, but it will have a practical function. The guests will only include foundations and Asian CBOs, thus giving them an opportunity to begin getting to know one another.

"The AACA's role [in the event] is to contact as many CBOs as possible; I hope we have a great turnout from them. I don't want it dominated by foundation people. It will be a process to educate foundations so that they will give to Asians," said Lee, an organizer of the event.

The event will feature a panel discussion, "Emerging Issues in Local Asian Communities." Paul Watanabe, co-director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, will start off by introducing facts about the local APA community.

Following him, three Asian CBOs will give short pre-

sentations about issues important to their communities. The first presentation will be by Saroeum Phoung, of ROCA Inc., who will discuss APA youth and gangs. He will describe some strategies that work with these youth that don't apply to youth from other ethnic groups.

Next, Long Nguyen, from VietAID will discuss community building, concentrating on economic and workforce development in local APA communities like that of the Cambodians in Lowell and the Vietnamese in Fields Corner.

And lastly, Lina Sheth, of the MassAsian AIDS Prevention Project, will provide health facts and discuss domestic violence. She will address how strategies need to differ among APA communities when dealing with domestic violence.

After the individual presentations, Watanabe will moderate an open discussion. The discussion will look further into how APA communities can be part of the solutions to social problems by utilizing unique strategies.

Furthermore, by explaining these different approaches, the participants can create stronger lines of communication and better understanding between foundations and CBOs at the event.

With its very first event, the Massachusetts AAPIP chapter is trying to act as the bridge that Mark and Lui hope it can be. Also, this immediate attempt to confront some of the problems listed above bodes well for the chapter's chances of meeting its goals.

While discussing the potential of AAPIP, Esther Lee provided a telling image about the situation between CBOs and foundations: "They are two worlds on the same plank. Why aren't they connected?"

On December 1, The AAPIP will begin finding ways to connect them.

AAPIP's Goals

The Massachusetts chapter of AAPIP has four goals. The organization will be able to get a better understanding of what they can do to attain these goals after the "Coming Out" in December. However, Meizhu Lui offered some preliminary ways that the chapter could reach them.

1. Connect APA nonprofits in state to local and national funders. The "Coming Out" will help with this on the local level; a resource table with information on local CBOs will be available. "To get national attention, you need to be part of something bigger, so we could link community-based organizations together to get funding," said Lui.
2. Educate funders about needs in the APA communities. Through the event, foundations will be able to meet with CBOs and learn about their needs. Also, AAPIP will host future forums on issues such as increasing charitable giving from the APA community and the 2000 Census results among other possibilities. "We could organize 'Meet the Funder' events which would work in a fashion similar to the 'Coming Out,'" said Lui.
3. Develop the capacity of local APA groups. "There are funds available to teach community-based organizations how to raise funds and write grants. Organizations may not know about these educational funders. Asian consultants could help community organizations contact this type of funding," said Lui.
4. Expand philanthropy among Asians. "We will hold events aimed at [individual donors] with Asian backgrounds to get them together with community-based organizations," said Lui.

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LOCAL

Fighting Prostitution

By Eric William Schramm

If you go to a monthly Chinatown Safety Committee meeting, like the one held on November 1, you are guaranteed to hear about them—pimps and prostitutes.

At each meeting the committee, which includes Boston police officers, and residents hash out ways to get the pimps and prostitutes off Chinatown's streets. The two descend upon "the track," as Chinatown is called in the sex-workers' parlance, according to Paul Poth, assistant district attorney for Suffolk County, from roughly midnight until early morning, sometimes as late as seven or eight o'clock. "The track" is not limited to either the business or residential areas of Chinatown; prostitutes can be found at the corner of Beach Street and Harrison Avenue, or along Oak, Hudson and Tai Tug Streets.

With the problem as pervasive as it is, residents are frustrated by the intrusion in their lives by prostitutes. At the November 1 meeting, one resident talked about how she is frightened to leave her apartment for work in the morning because she has to walk by prostitutes and pimps to get to her car. Once, some of the men jumped on the hood of her car.

Residents also complain about the fact that prostitutes ply their trade on the Josiah Quincy Elementary School playground and leave the condoms there, as well as on the sidewalks.

"[The prostitutes] keep us from sleeping. At night, they scream at each other. My kids hear them; it's not appropriate. We call 911, but it keeps going on. The cops shoo them away, but they come back," said Marie Moy, a member of the Chinatown Resident Association. "In the morning, there are condoms all over the place. Kids and workers at New England Medical Center see the prostitutes dressed up indecently. Sometimes, [we hear] the pimps beat them up. It's unbelievable."

Residents like Moy are not only frustrated by the fact that 911 calls don't seem to work, but they are scared too.

"I'd yell at them from my window, but then they would know my building. We worry about our safety," said Moy.

From the sleepless nights, concerns for personal safety as well as that of neighborhood children, and the used condoms, to the traffic problems caused by cruising Johns, and the negative effect the prostitution might have on Chinatown's reputation, Bill Moy, co-moderator of the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council and Safety Committee member, sees the problem as compromising the quality of life in Chinatown.

"Why should we tolerate prostitution in Chinatown?" asked Moy.

From what Boston police officers have said at the safety committee meetings, Chinatown has not been asked to tolerate it, but the prostitutes' and pimps' constant activity makes it difficult for the police to end the problem.

To begin with, Chinatown is the main "track" for prostitution in all of Massachusetts, according to Poth. Furthermore, it has traditionally been the central location for this trade. Johns know this, so they come to Chinatown, where the pimps and prostitutes are waiting. In short, for those involved in prostitution, Chinatown is the center for this "culture," according to Poth.

The police must also overcome practical problems. First off, the pimps and prostitutes are very mobile. Recently, they were active in Bay Village. But, through the use of Operation Squeeze (a program that uses undercover police officers as decoys and concentrates on the Johns) and the help from Bay Village residents, the police were able to push prostitutes and pimps out of the area. However, as a result, the sex trade moved into the nearest available area—Chinatown. So, with each concerted effort to eradicate prostitution from a specific area or even a block, the business changes locations. In short, the police end up playing cat and mouse with the prostitutes.

On the street-level of this chase, the prostitutes and pimps communicate with one another using wireless phones like walkie-talkies. They warn one another whenever a police cruiser appears, whether on a rou-

tine patrol or responding to a 911 call for Chinatown, according to Captain Bernard P. O'Rourke, commander of areas A-1, which includes Chinatown, and 15.

This way the prostitutes can hide from the police and move to another location. With the Johns constantly cruising, they end up finding what they are looking for.

Furthermore, because Chinatown restaurants are open as late as 4:00am, people have "the right to be there," said O'Rourke. The police cannot arbitrarily stop cars or people walking down the street.

However, the police can stop women or men that appear to be working as prostitutes. They conduct a field interrogation during which they get the person's name, address and other pertinent information. This "stop" is logged, and, if the same person is stopped three times, then they can be arrested under a "Common Nightwalker" charge, according to O'Rourke.

While this is inconvenient for the prostitutes, it doesn't necessarily stop them from returning to Chinatown. There is a court fee that they must pay when arrested. (There is no base fee, according to a clerk at the Municipal Court.)

Prostitutes and Johns can also be arrested on "sex for a fee" charges. To do so, a prostitute or a John must solicit a police decoy.

Success and Action

Despite the reasons for frustration among residents and the police, the later have made some steady progress in fighting the problem. Through the first week in November, 541 prostitutes had been arrested this year, according to O'Rourke.

In Bay Village, the residents have been able to get the Store 24 off Tremont Street closed from 1-5:00am. The store was a popular hangout for pimps and prostitutes. Residents videotaped the late night activities and the owners agreed to limit the store's hours.

Operation Squeeze appeared to help in Bay Village so the police will continue to hold the monthly sting operation as well as add a few mini-operations in Chinatown on a monthly basis, according to O'Rourke.

Poth has been on operations that have worked on the Johns cruising a track that ran along Oak, Tyler, and Beach Streets, to Harrison Avenue, Marginal Road and Tremont Street back to Oak Street.

The police have also begun to watch a location in Chinatown. They have confirmed that there have been prostitutes and pimps sighted outside of 46 Beach Street, where Dino's, a nightclub on the seventh floor, is located.

"We have seen an increase in the number of people who have been arrested in connection to pimping and prostituting around that location," said O'Rourke.

The police have also been active in encouraging Chinatown residents to call 911 whenever prostitutes appear near their homes. The department has created a bi-lingual flyer that explains both that calling 911 helps the police and what happens when they call. Bill Moy said he has distributed 1000 of these flyers to residents or where they live.

When residents do call 911, O'Rourke said that it would be helpful if the caller gave as many specific details about the prostitutes as possible. He also stated that callers should say why the prostitutes are causing concern, like that they can't sleep because of the noise.

In order to improve on the response time for 911 calls about prostitution, the police have raised the priority of such calls from nine, the lowest, to five, noted O'Rourke at the November committee meeting.

The police have also put up barriers at Oak, Tai Tung and Hudson streets at night, according to Bill Moy. "It has had an impact, according to residents," he said.

These blockades will soon be accompanied by "Do Not Enter from 12-6am" signs at the corners of Tyler and Tai Tung, Hudson and Tai Tung, and Harvard and Tyler streets, according to O'Rourke. These signs should make it more difficult for Johns to drive "the tracks."

Not only have the police been active in fighting

prostitution. The District Attorney's office has been focusing on pimps. Since the office began concentrating on the problem in June, three pimps—Noel Lopez, Hanford Bennett and Kevin Drayton—have been indicted by the Superior Court, said Poth.

Lopez and Drayton have been charged with "Deriving Support from the Earnings of a Prostitute." In Bennett's case, because he employed minors (one 15 and two 17-year olds), he will be charged with "Deriving Support from the Earnings of a Minor Prostitute," a charge which could carry a penalty of life in prison. Indicting pimps is getting at the source of the problem, but it's also labor intensive and takes time.

"We now know how to do it. We have a better sense of how the business works. We hope to have at least one more pimp by the end of the year," said Poth.

These two successful indictments of pimps show that not only prostitutes are the targets of law enforcement in Chinatown. The police, according to Bill Moy, have made a concerted effort to reduce the prostitution.

Toward solutions

While the police have worked to arrest more prostitutes and to respond to 911 calls sooner, residents are still concerned about the effectiveness of the measures.

"The times I've called 911, it didn't seem like it was effective. There are nights we've had to call three or four times. We tell them our name, address and that there are prostitutes on the street," said Marie Moy.

The problem that Moy points out, as well as residents at the safety committee meetings, is that by the time the police arrive, the prostitutes are gone or are hiding. To combat this, Moy would like to see more regular police cruisers on the streets.

There are other possible actions that could be taken by residents to participate in the fight against prostitution. O'Rourke stressed that residents should call 911 because it is one of the most affective actions that residents can take. By encouraging the residents to call, the police hope that they can convince residents to shirk their fears about the language barrier. Even by dialing 911, the flyer stated, the system locks in on the callers address and phone number, thereby ensuring a response regardless as to whether the caller can speak to the operator or not.

Other possible aides in combating prostitution include getting the dark streets in Chinatown better lit and, when possible, using flood lights for outdoor lights. There has also been talk about implementing a neighborhood watch plan at the committee meetings.

"We have tried to do a crime watch [in the past]. People need to have a greater sense of ownership of the community though. It works by having people say 'hey, we're neighbors. I'll call you. You'll call me. Then, we'll call the police.'" said Reverend Tom Lee of the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, adding, "We need to encourage that."

The preceding options are open for the community to act upon. Greater cooperation between the police and residents, and even between neighbors could have immediate, positive results, as was the case in Bay Village. However, there may be a larger issue at hand. Both O'Rourke and Poth noted that with restaurants still open after most of Boston's clubs and bars have closed, Chinatown has become a late night destination for many people. Mixed in with the crowd are pimps and prostitutes.

"The fact that restaurants are open until 4:00am makes it that much more difficult to enforce the laws against prostitution," said O'Rourke. "It gives these individuals [who may be involved in prostitution] the right to be in Chinatown proper. And it holds true for Tyler and Hudson Streets, because they claim that they are going to Chinatown to get something to eat. It gives people an answer for the police."

The possible relationship between the late hours, the persistent prostitution problem, and the residents growing frustration with that problem may inevitably force Chinatown, as a community, to ask itself some difficult questions about how to stop prostitution from thriving on its streets.

CALENDAR

Nov. 22-Dec. 2 (Tues. & Thur.) 10am-5pm: The S.T. Gallery, located at 16 Princeton Road, Malden, will co-host with the Asian Spectrum Program the Malden **artsrendezvous**. The month-long event will offer tea art, art exhibitions, poetry readings, and musical performances. For more info, call the S.T. Gallery at 781/322-6851, or visit sandt-gallery28@aol.com.

Nov. 3-Jan. 26 (every Fri.) 7-10pm: The Malden Badminton Association will sponsor year round practice sessions at the Salemwood School Gym, located at 529 Salem St., Malden. Bring a racket with you. For more info, call Lawrence Lo at 617/662-2653.

Nov. 20 (Mon.) 6:00pm: The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council will hold its monthly meeting. There will be reports given on prostitution, and Centerfolds, a new adult entertainment operation to open on LaGrange Street. The meeting will be held at St. James Church, located at 125 Harrison Avenue, Chinatown.

Nov. 21 (Tues.) 10:30am-12:30pm: The AACA will host a **community workshop on stress reduction**. The workshop, led by Eric Lee from the Asian Health Collaborative, will address basic self-care activities, how to maintain high energy and reason for a lack of positive energy. The workshop is free, open to the public and will be presented in Cantonese and Mandarin. AACA is located at 200 Tremont St., Boston. For more info, call 426-9492.

Nov. 24-Dec. 31 (days and show times vary): The Boston Ballet will perform its 36th annual production of "The Nutcracker." All performances will be at the Wang Theatre, located at 270 Tremont St., Boston. Tickets range from \$12 to \$62. They are available through Tele-charge by phone at 800/447-7400, on the internet at www.telecharge.com, or in person at The Wang Theatre Box Office (Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm.). For more info and specific show dates and times, call the Boston Ballet at 617/695-6995.

Nov. 26 (Sun.) 12 noon; Nov. 30 (Thur.) 6pm; Dec. 9 (Sat.) 12:30pm: The Asian American Resource Workshop and the Museum of Fine Arts will present Deann Borshay Liem's **First Person Plural**, a personal documentary exploring assimilation, adoption, cultural differences, American attitudes and mistaken identity. Showings of the 57-min. film will be in the Remis Auditorium, located at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets are \$7 for students, seniors, MFA members; \$8 for general admission. They are available at the MFA box office (617/369-3770) or 24-hour automated ticket line (617/369-3306). For more info, call the AARW at 617/426-5313 or visit workshop@aarw.org.

Nov. 26 (Sun.) 3pm: The Boston Early Music Festival concert series will feature Favella Lyrica at the First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, located at 11 Garden St., Cambridge. The program will be "The Singer's Art," music of the 17th century Italy and England (works by Monteverdi, Strozzi, Lawes, Purcell). Tickets are \$42, \$30, \$18, discounts for students and seniors. For more info, call the Boston Early Music Festival at 617/661-1812.

Nov. 27 (Mon.) 9am; Dec. 18 (Mon.) 9am; Dec. 27 (Wed.) 9am: The Asian American Civic Association will be holding registration and testing on these dates for its **Adult ESL Program**. There are five levels available (beginning with literacy), and the program is 12 weeks long (Tues.-Fri., 8:30-10:30am). The next class begins Jan. 3, 2001. Apply today in person at 200 Tremont St., Boston. For more info, call AACA at 617/426-9492.

Nov. 29 (Wed.) 4:00pm: Wheelock College and The Center for Anti-Racist Education at the Cambridge Friends School will present a talk by Assistant Professor of Education Joan May T. Cordova, co-editor of "Voices: A Filipino American Oral History" at Wheelock College's Alumni Room, located at 180 The Riverway, Boston. Admission is free. For info, call Theresa Perry, vice president for community relations at 617/879-2159.

Dec. 1 (Fri.) 6pm; Dec. 2 (Sat.) 1:30pm: The Museum of Fine Arts will show the film "16 Decisions: A Glimpse into a Poor

Woman's Social Charter" in the Remis Auditorium, located at 465 Huntington Ave., Boston. The documentary by Gayle Ferraro focuses on Selina, one of 2.5 million impoverished Bangladeshi women helping to build a stronger rural economy through businesses they start with \$60 loans. A post-film discussion will be sponsored by The Boston Women's Fund. Tickets are \$8 general admission; \$7 MFA members, students and seniors. Tickets by phone: 617/369-3306. For more info, call the MFA Film Line at 617/369-3907 or speak to staff at 617/369-3300 (Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm).

Dec. 5 (Tues.) 6:30pm: The Chinatown Initiative will hold a **Town Meeting** to present the draft of the updated Master Plan at the Quincy School Auditorium, located at 885 Washington St., Chinatown. For more info, call TCI at 617/357-7079.

Dec. 7 (Thur.): Arn Chorn Pond, Cambodian refugee and youth worker, will share his life story and talk about how he has turned past violence into lesson of peace. The event is free; there will be music and refreshments. It will be held at the West End Branch

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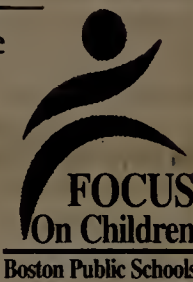
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- Early Childhood Bilingual (1)

The application deadline for these positions is November 20, 2000. Please send a resume and a letter of interest (specifying position) to: Karen Cahill, 26 Court Street, Boston, MA 02106; or fax: (617) 635-1579 or (617) 635-9672 as soon as possible. Please see our website for further details. (www.boston.k12.ma.us).

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If interested, send cover letter and resume indicating specific position to: Human Resources Office, Code: SAM11/17, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02481 or by email working@wellesley.edu. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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Office of Instructional Technology:

- Elementary Library Information/Media Service Coordinator

School to Career Program

- School to Career Program Director for Integrated Curriculum and Professional Development

The application deadline for these positions is November 27, 2000. The job description and application process is outlined on the BPS website (www.boston.k12.ma.us) under "Employment".

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Please send resume to Harriet Kahn, Director, Russell Call Children's Center, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

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Director of Public Relations

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Media Relations Specialist (2)

Conceptualize, develop and execute media strategies. Develop and maintain relationships with the external press. Work with internal university community to achieve positive placements about the university, its people and programs. Must have Bachelor's degree and 2 to 4 years' professional experience in public relations and/or journalism. Demonstrated understanding of print and electronic media required. May have to respond to emergency situations outside regular business hours. Two positions are available; for one position, sciences background or experience with science media preferred. Send resume to the attention of Siobhan Houton.

Above positions require excellent writing, organizational and interpersonal skills; strong initiative; ability to think creatively and work under tight deadline pressure and stressful situations.

Please send resume to the designated person at University Relations, 716 Columbus Avenue, Suite 598, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02120-5000.

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LOCAL

Sound of Nature

Qin Jun, a Chinese Zitherist in Boston

By Meng Lang, translated by Jessie Shi

Autumn in New England is a season when people surge to the suburbs on weekends to enjoy the superb scenery of lakes and mountains with maple leaves turning red. Meanwhile in Boston, it is only the beginning of another golden season when artists from all fields display their talents. Qin Jun, a guzheng (Chinese zither) musician from Mainland China, now residing in Boston, is a particularly outstanding example of this field of talent.

On October 22, the Chinese Music School opened in Chinatown, a neighborhood which is as well-known as the city is for its profound cultural and historical influence. The school is an artistic, educational institute whose purpose is to cultivate talent in Chinese folk music and to expand Chinese traditional arts. A celebratory party was held on the opening night, and Qin Jun performed her guzheng solo "Qin Sang Tune" and "Swallow Flying in the Snow," which deeply absorbed the audience into the soul-stirring classic elegance of the guzheng art.

Guzheng is one of the most ancient, native instruments played with fingers in China. It came into fashion in the Qin Dynasty over 2000 years ago. Later, it became even more prevalent throughout the country during the Tang Dynasty. Over thousands of years, guzheng musicians and artisan masters have continually improved, approaching perfection day by day. Since modern times, guzheng has been enjoying a high reputation as "China's ancient piano" in Western society.

Guzheng wasn't studied as a specialty in music institutes in China until fifty years ago. Slowly, these schools started to set up programs specialized in training guzheng talents, but they recruited just a few students each year. As a result, excellent guzheng musicians are very rare. They are not easy to find in the quite large group of Chinese music professionals.

Qin Jun is among the very few precious guzheng musicians. In the late 80s and 90s, she has been one of the best young guzheng performers as well as a well-known teacher of guzheng in Mainland China.

During her childhood, Qin Jun began to learn how to play guzheng with Li Ke, a famous master in Sichuan Province. Early in her youth, she made herself conspicuous in the field of folk music in her hometown. After graduating from the Sichuan Musical Institute in 1988, she was the chief guzheng solo-performer in China's Er' mei Movie Music Orchestra. Qin Jun has been very active on the stage in all of the big cities of China, and she has achieved very high praise. She has won first prize in the professional group at the International Chinese Musical Instrument Exhibition. Additionally, she has received the Gardener Cup for Chinese Traditional Music, an award for teachers, and gained a reputation of being an excellent teacher. She has also traveled abroad many times to give performances. After listening to her play, music critics in France, Switzerland and other countries have said that Qin Jun, through her superb performances in the concert hall, on the radio and in recordings, has brought the beautiful tones of China's ancient piano to Western audiences. Those who admire Chinese culture have been deeply impressed with this instrument's unique sound of nature from China.

Since the middle of the 20th century, there have been many Chinese folk musicians with fine artistic endurance who have immigrated to North America. Many of these musicians have relocated in New York City. Qin Jun started her sojourning artistic life there, too.

Since arriving in 1997, Qin Jun has spent three years performing and teaching the guzheng around the greater New York area. Her artistry on the guzheng has won universal praise from critics in the field of Chinese traditional music across North America. From the experts' point of view, she is regarded as one of the most outstanding guzheng musicians currently active on international stages.

Qin Jun is particularly good at playing masterpieces of Chinese traditional music, including "Winter Duck Playing with Water," "Lofty Mountains and Flowing Water," and "Autumn Moon Shining above Han Palace," among others. Her performance of other pieces like "Qinsang Tune," "Beating a Drumn on Xiang Shan Mountain," and "Night Rain Patting Palm Leaves beside Window" were adapted from traditional music in modern times. She has also given them innovative annotation and conveyance. While playing the pieces created by moderns such as "Fight Against Typhoon" and "Spring Coming to Snow Mountain," the sweet tones flowing under her fingers are full of the spirit of the times. Many American audiences attending her performances have greatly appreciated the sense of internationalism and universal co-existence in her performing style and her understanding of artistic concept.

Qin Jun has been invited to perform for American audiences at venues like the Lincoln Center, the Julliard Musical Institute, the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Corporation. She has also worked with many famous Chinese musicians, like conductor Yao Xueyan, violinist Lu Siqing, pianist Yin Cheng Zong and Chinese zitherist Wang Changyuan. Her Chinese colleagues have given high praise for her profound understanding and plentiful feelings for Chinese national music. This has made quite a lot of pieces she has performed the example of recreation and the continuous surmounting of the performing arts.

In August of this year, Qin Jun was invited to perform and teach in

Continued on p.8

Education

Choices, Choices . . .

What's an Exam School? What's a Charter School?

Exam Schools

What are the exam schools? The Boston Public Schools have three schools for grades 7-12 that admit students on a competitive basis: Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and the O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. All three offer a rigorous curriculum focused on preparing graduates for college--and almost all graduates *do* go on to post-secondary education. If you go to an exam school, your teachers will expect you to work hard, do a lot of reading and writing, and complete several hours of homework each night. Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in many subjects for students ready for even greater academic challenges. You do have to study Latin (five years of it) at the two Latin schools. All three schools offer a variety of sports and clubs, cultural and social activities, and opportunities for community service.

Like all Boston public schools, the exam schools are free.

Who may apply, and how? The exam schools are open only to Boston residents. All three accept new students for grades 7 and 9. In addition, O'Bryant accepts new students for grade 10. Admission criteria include scores from a standardized tests--the Independent School Entrance Examination, or ISEE--and grade point average in select subjects, which must be sent in by your school. ISEE registration materials are available at the beginning of the school year in all Boston public schools and Parent Information Centers, most private and parochial schools in greater Boston, the city's branch libraries, and Boys and Girls Clubs. You can also get registration materials by calling 617/635-9514. If you live in Boston, you can take the test for free. If you live outside of Boston, you can take the ISEE; however, you will have to pay a testing fee and submit a registration form.

Admissions policy. The Boston Public Schools invites students to the exam schools by straight rank order using a "composite score." The composite score is calculated using students' grade point average and test scores. The Grade Point Average (GPA) used to determine a student's composite score will be calculated based on the first two marking periods of the current school year (6th and 8th grades for admission to grades 7 and 9, respectively), as well as the final marks of the previous school year (5th and 7th grades for admission to grades 7 and 9, respectively) in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

For more information, call the Boston Public School Exam School Initiative at 617/635-6995. The above information was taken from the pamphlet "The Exam Schools."

Charter Schools

What is a charter school? Charter schools are new independent public schools that have been operating in Massachusetts since 1995. Charter schools are started by parents, teachers, social service organizations, and community leaders. These schools have the freedom to organize around a core mission, curriculum, theme, or teaching method. They are allowed to control their own budgets and hire (and fire) teachers and staff. In return for this freedom, a charter school must attract students and produce good results within five years or lose its charter.

May charter schools give entrance exams? No. State law prohibits a charter school from discriminating in its enrollment process on the basis of academic achievement. Schools may create eligibility thresholds for enrollment that are consistent with their area of focus or grade levels, but a school's methods for determining eligibility for enrollment--including meetings, interviews, and recommendations--cannot be designed, intended, or used to discriminate on the basis of a child's knowledge or skills. Diagnostic exams may be given once the students have been enrolled.

Are laws and regulations waived for charter schools? No. Charter schools must follow the same state standards, take the same state tests, and abide by virtually all the same laws and regulations as other public schools. All public schools, including charter schools, must administer the new Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests, which will be based on the curriculum frameworks adopted by the Board of Education. Charter schools must also administer any other assessment the Board may require.

For more information on charter schools, call the Citywide Parents Council at 617/ 635-9210. This information was taken from "The Massachusetts Charter School Initiative" booklet.

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FINANCE

The Importance of Diversification

By Mary Ann Yee

When it comes to investing, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" is sound advice. The way to avoid the risks of having all your money in only one or a few categories of assets is through diversification.

The process of determining which kinds of investments will be held in a portfolio, and in what proportions, is known as "asset allocation." Its purpose is to help you achieve an optimal mix of investments to produce the desired returns with the least amount of fluctuation in the overall portfolio. Asset allocation seeks to accomplish this by reducing a portfolio's exposure to losses that could result from a decline in one or more of the portfolio's investment categories. By spreading funds among several investment types, an investor can increase the probability that if the performance of one investment type is disappointing, others are holding steady or outperforming.

A study in the *Financial Analysts Journal* concluded that the single most important factor determining the performance of an investment portfolio is how that portfolio is allocated among different types of investments. The study concluded that about 94% of the investment performance of the pension plans studied was attributable to asset allocation, with the rest attributable to other factors, such as securities selection and market timing.

Surveying Your Choices

Research supports the conclusion that asset allocation may be the single most important decision an investor can make--more important than individual stock and bond selections or market timing. So it is important to be aware of the investment alternatives available to you. Most types of assets fall under the three broad categories of stocks, bonds and cash equivalents. On a long-term historical basis, stocks have provided the highest returns but have also experienced the most fluctuations in price. Cash equivalents have historically offered the lowest returns with the fewest fluctuations in price. Bonds have generally fallen somewhere between these two categories in both risk and returns.

Under these three broad categories lie numerous asset classes. For instance, most stocks can be identified as either "value" or "growth." In addition, they can be further segregated into large, small and mid-sized according to the total market value, or capitalization, of all the shares outstanding. Bonds can be

classified by maturity: short-, intermediate- or long-term, and further segregated by type of issuer: corporate, U.S. Treasuries, mortgage-backed or municipal. Stocks and bonds can also be categorized depending on whether they have been issued by U.S. or foreign entities.

Diversification and Performance

Studies of the past performance of these subcategories have revealed distinct patterns regarding their historical returns and risk (as measured by price fluctuations). For instance, a study by the Salomon Smith Barney Consulting Group revealed that "value stocks" (those perceived as priced below their true worth) and "growth" stocks (those expected to grow faster than average) tend to outperform each other over intermediate time periods ranging from three to eight years. However, over long time periods of a decade or more, the difference in performance of these two asset classes diminishes. Studies have also revealed return and risk differences between large- and small-company stocks and between U.S. and foreign stocks over long periods.

Because of these differing patterns, the returns on various asset categories may not be correlated. In other words, they may not move in the same direction or by the same amounts. As a result, their returns may partially offset each other. By combining asset classes in a portfolio, investors may be able to achieve returns that fluctuate less than any single asset class held separately. This can increase the compounding effect of incremental returns over time, possibly leading to substantially higher total returns.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Mary Ann Yee has been in the financial services industry for over 20 years and is currently a Financial Consultant with Salomon Smith Barney at 53 State Street in Boston 617/5589-3221.



Mary Ann Yee

Sounds of Nature, Continued from p.7

Boston by the local Society of Chinese National Music. Within just a few months, she has held many performances at venues throughout Boston. Her exquisite skills have been fresh and new to both Chinese and American audiences. At the 10th Chestnut Hill Music Camp, while one of the masters lectured, Qin Jun introduced and demonstrated the art of guzheng for both professionals and amateurs. The unique fascination of "China's ancient piano" has further attracted music lovers in New England. She also held a solo concert in Chinese Culture and Education Center soon after she arrived in Boston. A large crowd of enthusiastic music lovers attended this performance. Intoxicated by the unparalleled beauty of the guzheng, many of those present showed great interest in learning how to play the guzheng with Qin Jun.

Local newspapers published a review written by the Chinese arts critic Situ Tianzhen. "Qin Jun's performance on the guzheng has created a new concept of spirit. The elegant posture, the dynamic techniques, and the marvelous music have combined dancing, singing, playing and conducting as a whole, which is the exact reflection of the quintessence of Chinese culture," said Tianzhen.

As part of the beginning of her artistic cause in Boston, she established "Qin Jun's Studio of Guzheng Art" in Chinatown. Now, she has about fifty students there. Additionally, she is also considering establishing the "Qin Yun Guzheng Art Society" to further expand the influence of guzheng art in New England. Jun hopes to expand American society's understanding and acknowledgment of Chinese national music by presenting more beautiful and innovative performances for them.



Playing the Sounds of Nature. Qin Jun plays the guzheng at Columbia University in January.

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鮮花、掌聲與汗水

——記甄碧風獲2001年度女童軍亞裔傑出女性獎

彭莎

亞美聯合餐會共同主席；紐英崙中華公所中秋節聯歡會籌備委員；中國城美化委員會的執行委員；亞裔婦女庇護中心義工；南灣華埠青年會理事；麻州州長的亞美顧問成員；美國和平隊；亞美專業人員協會；紐英崙華人歷史協會；望合山墓地紀念碑整建計劃委員會的共同主席；美國防癌協會紐英崙地區亞美顧問會的共同主席；中國城新建的王氏青年會董事會成員……

親愛的讀者請注意，上列十一種義工並非十一個人，而是同一個人！現為波士頓市府鄰里發展部資深溝通專家甄碧風女士；而這十一種甚至也並非甄碧風做過或正在做的義工的全部。試想一下，一個人得有多大的熱情，得投入多少時間，精力，以及自己的知識和技能去從事這些義務工作啊！

在2001年獲女童軍2000年度傑出女性獎的演說詞裏，甄碧風表達了對幫助她開展事業的鄧飛家族以及各位朋友的感激，然後介紹了她學到的三個原則：一、如何抓住機遇來充實自己的生活，展開事業。二、回饋社區，幫助他人，想做的事就要做到。三、尋找機遇，充分利用機遇。在這個過程中，開放心態，不斷成長。「做義工，我得到了很大的樂趣，也從中學到很多。」當談到自己的義工經歷時，甄碧風只是這樣誠懇地說。

對於獲得女童軍的「傑出女性」獎，甄碧風表示自己要更多地為社區做出貢獻，並號召女孩們：「勇于發言！參加進來，做義務工作。」她也表示希望更多的亞裔瞭解女童軍這個組織，積極參加進來，豐富美國文化，也充分利用主流社會資源。

據統計，美國女性中有近一半都在童年時代加入過女童軍。而在美國成功女性和知名婦女中，曾是女童軍者比例更高，她們都認為童年時的女童軍經歷對自己日後的建樹產生正面影響，因此將女童軍譽為「成功女性的搖籃」並不為過。

從一九九二年開始，愛國者之徑女童軍每年評選「傑出女性」，旨在為女孩們樹立行為楷模。每年度的獲獎者在種族、年齡、職業等方面各俱色彩，從各界婦女領袖到普通卻樂於奉獻的母親或少女。目的是讓女孩們理解成功的內涵：最普通的人也可以為社會做出貢獻。這使得女孩們的行為楷模更人性化，更真實，而非高不可攀，因此更具有示範性。

甄碧風同意接受我的採訪，但說，「我只有半個小時」。對於我的「如何安排時間，去從事這麼多的義務工作」的問題，她只是淡淡地說，想做就去做，就能做到。關於她自己，她並不肯多談，倒是十分熱心地問及我自己的學習、生活等，給我提了些很好的建議。

出生於中國廣東台山，童年時隨父母移居香港，高中畢業後來到美國的甄碧風具有港台職業婦女所特有的幹練，一副實幹家「go-getter」的氣質。

因為我來自大陸，自然說到共同關心的中國。當說到在佛羅里達為中國官方籌辦的一億美元的「錦繡中華」工程做公關主任時，看到那種講排場的奢靡作風，她決定辭職時，中國官員十分不解：「給你這麼高的工資，你還走？」當講到回到台山老家，看到家鄉的貧困時，明顯有些動容的甄碧風在我眼裏愈發真實起來。



甄碧風與波士頓市長的夫人Angela Menino，在10月23日的女童軍「2001年傑出女性」頒獎會上。

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• 麻州醫療協會宣布2000-2001年的麻州醫療協會社區行動獎將授予「受支持的婦女」這一項目。該項目將獲得一萬五千美元來擴展他們對波士頓地區生活在庇護處的婦女及其孩子以及住在街頭的婦女的醫療以及其他幫助，並用以喚起人們對無家可歸者的關注等活動。

• 陳素雲與摩頓亞太聯盟合作舉辦「品茗、藝展、吟詩、賞樂」活動，自十月二十二日至十一月二日，在摩頓陳素雲藝廊舉辦。參加的藝術家有貝嶺，陳建業，秦風，徐欽俊，高洛蘭，劉繼明，劉曉丹，孟浪，莫逆，陳素，汪衛星，黃家智，吳劍心等。詳情請電 781-322-6851。

• 自十一月開始，華美福利會已在辦理燃油補助申請。歡迎波士頓，伯克萊(Brookline)及牛頓(Newton)的低收入家庭前往申請。詳情請電 617-426-9492，鄭小姐。

• 十一月二十一日上午十時半，華美福利會將舉辦「如何減少壓力」的講座，以國語及廣東話進行，歡迎參加。詳情請電 617-426-9492，分機312，Emily。

• 十一月二十五日晚七點半在Arlington Center for the Arts，來自中國廣東的巡迴木偶劇團將進行精彩的演出。詳情請電 617-731-6300。

• 華美福利會英語進修課程「ABE課程」招生。這是為中等英語程度的學生而設。詳情請電 617-426-9492，鄭小姐。

• 哈佛燕京大禮堂連台好節目：十二月一日晚七點半中樂演奏會暨演講，十二月二日自上午九點四十分至下午六點為第15屆中國文化研討會。

• 華埠社區議會每月第二週的星期一下午六時在華埠夏里臣街一二五號天主教堂舉行。

• 華埠安全委員會會議於每月第一週的星期三上午十時半，在華埠華盛頓街八八八號華信屋會議室舉行。

• 中華耆英會將於每月第一週的星期五舉行「人生」生日會。詳情請電 617-789-4289，李小姐。

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中國文化一窺

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中唐詩人盧仝嗜茶如命，又擅煮茶。他的名篇《七碗茶》，在茶界無人不曉：

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，記筆記，如何發言，以及如何查找資料。都是很有用的知識。」

波士頓高等教育信息中心於九五年二月開始在華美福利會設立了一個衛星辦公室，由高級輔導員 Annie Zhang 管理，主要與 ABE 課程合作。熱心的張女士介紹了很多情況。

「我在華美的這個點已經辦了五年了。我對 ABE 課程最瞭解，我很喜歡他們。老師和學生的互動非常好。學生往往是新移民，很自然地有 Cultural Shock「文化震撼」，而 ABE 課程的老師都非常熱心負責，很用心地幫助他們度過這一關。比如 Richard，下午下班後還帶著學生到波士頓圖書館來查資料，因為我一週四天都在波士頓圖書館的辦公室上班，所以我知道。還有 Janet，對學生非常熱心，每一個學生的特殊需要她都很瞭解，常常為了學生繼續受教育，選擇什麼課程啊，能申請什麼助學金啊這些事，帶著學生來找我。好幾次跑到 ABE 四級的學生在畢業儀式上哭了，可以說每班學生畢業時都依依不捨。去年，Richard 在家辦晚會，我去花店買花，碰到一個中國人，說買花送他的老師。等我到 Richard 家裏，才發現我們竟都是來看望 Richard 的。」

我認為這個課程這麼成功，是因為在 AACA 華美這樣的中華文化背景的環境中，學生在心理上比較容易過渡，加上這些美國老師又非常好。我發現，學完 ABE 課程的學生和他們剛剛進入這個課程時變化很大。他們明顯變得自信了。

這種勁頭很有感染力。看著他們的變化，我感到很幸福。」

「我做的不過是幫助新移民適應一下這個體制，他們很多人都是有很好好的學術背景的，還有博士學位的學生呢，Emily 淡淡地說，盡管 Richard 告訴我，Emily 對這個課程的順利運轉十分重要……任何時候有任何問題，她總在那兒，總是十分可靠，而且天天如此。」

「我沒做什麼，我只是旁觀，」不肯披露她的中文姓名的張女士一再要求我不必提及她，盡管幾乎每一個我採訪的學生都說，她真好，有問必答，在自己申請學校，申請助學金的一些重要結骨眼兒上，她提供的信息，她的推薦都證明十分有用。

教育者的幸福

「我感覺很棒，」Richard 說。這個課程對人們確實很有用，幫助了許多人，好比架起了一座橋梁，或打開了一扇通往美好生活的大門，使得他們增強了對自己的信心，能夠讀完大學，找到不錯的職業，在一個英語的社會裏成爲一個很有用的成員。

這個課程的用處是顯而易見的。我們也經常邀請以前的學生，現在都做得很不錯的，回來 AACA 給我們的學生介紹他們的經歷，這些榜樣的成功對我們的學生的鼓勵也很大。」

「我從我的學生那兒得到的啓迪很大，」Janet 只是謙遜地說。「他們這麼努力，學習一門全新的語言和文化，

無題

孟浪

詩人的自行車飛翔在世紀的地洞裏，努力探出它浩大的頭好奇：

而一座尖銳島嶼的努力只是卸下肩不是擔子，但詩人的自行車後面面

少年時分的一粒米，碩朋無比在地洞裏，更回到神聖種子的美好時光：

其實英名的它已經探到了底極限，生命的極限，是另一只無限的輪子：

圓的，永不轉動，沒有起碼的起點卻終於有了終點，那里驟停著畫家虛構的馬：

在現實裏，是我們在羞怯地奔跑，並吃光地洞上空所有如茵的青草。

二零零零年七月十四日

為英逆畫展而作。

Proverbs Express 成語速遞

華美福利會 ABE 學生提供

1. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

人家的東西總是比自己好。

"We always admire what the neighbor has and we are never content with what we own. When we compare what we own to others, we always feel what other people own is better than what we have."

(ABE Level 3 - Suzanne Huang)

2. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. 遇到挫折困難的時候，就是磨練自己的機會。

"This proverb means to me when something bad happens to you, try to do something good with the bad thing. Try to make the best of a bad situation instead of just complaining about it."

(ABE Level 3 - Silvana Lushaj)

IMMIGRATION LAW 移民法專業律師

南茜·荷莉頓
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三十三年經驗

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| ★ Investors | ★ 投資移民 |
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33 Years Experience

特惠舢舨讀者·第一次面談免費

國語，廣東話）輔導員，負責學生與老師間的溝通交流。

在該課程的最初兩年，由於是一個聯邦政府的項目，正式的合作夥伴為Bunker Hill Community College和BCNC（波士頓華人社區中心）。BCNC與華美一樣，是社區服務機構，承辦ABE課程。這三個單位在該項目上密切合作，互通有無，ABE的學生可以到Bunker Hill Community College的「自學中心」使用電腦、圖書，隨時向輔導老師諮詢等，而Bunker Hill Community College的ESL教師Alan Shute作為ABE課程的聯絡人，也多次到華美福利會的ABE課程舉辦講座、諮詢。而Bunker Hill Community College的「自學中心」的負責人等也積極予以支持。九五年後，該項目轉為州政府資助。雖然正式的合作關係中止了，但非正式的合作交流還是十分密切，頻繁。

九三年初到九五年，該課程的經費是聯邦撥款的；九五年麻州政府考察了該項目後，開始提供一筆五年的經費；今年華美福利會的ABE課程又通過鑒定，獲得新一輪五年的撥款。這實際上是对該ABE課程的質量認證，也表明州政府對幫助新移民適應美國社會的重視，對成人繼續教育的重視。

「這兒的老師特別好！」

自九三年到現在，華美福利會的ABE課程的二十一位學生先後獲得\$1,000的大學獎學金，由The Boston Adult Literacy Fund（波士頓成人教育基金會）授予。該ABE課程九六年的學生吳衛紅獲得波士頓高等教育信息中心的2000年大學生成就獎，獎勵他自強不息，努力學習，成績優異。

吳衛紅，九五年來美，九六年在華美福利會的ABE課程學習了一年，就考上Bunker Hill Community College的電腦專業，課程平均學分高達3.82（學制為四分制）學習三年之後，現在在東北大學（Northeastern University）讀電腦學士學位。

「我在中國廣州高中畢業時英語只得九分，可是一百方才是滿分。來了美國後，怎麼辦呢，人還這麼年輕。剛去華美福利會的ABE課程時，我學得好不吃力。我其實也去別的ESL課程學過

，比較一下後，覺得還是這邊教得好。後來我在AACU學了一年英語後，到Bunker Hill去讀電腦時，我已經都不需要再上ESL課程了。」

這兒的老師特別好，特別熱心，教的東西又很實用。我剛開始的老師是Chris Line，後來是Richard。因為我學得吃力，他們就給我安排了一位課外輔導老師George，他也特別好，我有一段時間幾乎天天去他那兒。

我們學的東西很實用，比如記筆記，怎樣與大學的教授交往，當眾演講等等。這些都是很重要的能力。」郭芬，九五年來美，九六年在華美福利會的ABE課程學習了兩期，然後轉入華美福利會的職業培訓班，現在是Fleet Bank「富利銀行」在Copley Square分行的助理經理。「Richard確實是很好的老師，很耐心，很花心思，上課的方式靈活多樣。我在國內學的是專業是財經，後來做會計。在大學裏當然也學過英語，在ABE課程的收穫主要是能學到很地道的英語，現今最流行的俚語等。我覺得在華美的ABE課程和職業培訓班確實好像一道機會之門，只要你自己肯用心思，肯努力，找一份不錯的工作的機會還是不少的。」，她告訴記者。

馬珍珠，原為中國水利部的高級俄文翻譯，九八年來美，九九年到華美福利會的ABE課程學習。現在雖已年過六十，但身心年輕。結束了ABE課程的學習之後，她即轉入Bunker Hill Community College電腦專業，今年改為以電腦為基礎的社會專業。她知識素養好，學習能力強，盡管年紀已不輕，學習的效果卻是相當好的。她說，「Richard是非常好的老師，很負責任，很熱心。我們的作業他都改得很仔細，很替學生著想，對每一個學生都十分瞭解，有針對性地給以指導。他不但教我們英語，也教我們瞭解美國社會情況，還教我們如何求職，如何去面試，新移民的道路怎麼走，等等。真的，他是我見



Janet Fischer「前排右者」與學生在一起

過的最好的老師。在這兒老師教得很用心，和學生的互動很好。我們的輔導員Emily小姐也非常好。她會好幾種方言，我們學生隨時有任何問題，找到她，

總是笑臉相迎。還有高等教育信息中心的高級輔導員Annie Zhang也是非常好的。她的中心在華美設了一個點，我們隨時有問題時，她總是提供很有用，很實在的建議。比如我想繼續讀書，怎樣申請，填表，好多細節都是她幫我的。我在華美雖然只學了二個月，但是感覺特別好。好象人人都是好朋友，真心幫我們在美國過好。」

Mary Ling 在九三年華美福利會的ABE課程學習過。她在中國是初中畢業。在華美的ABE課程結束後，在Bunker Hill Community College學了四年會計，然後又到東北大學再讀三年，今年就拿到了會計專業的學士學位，這七年她都是一邊工作，一邊半日制地學習。「可以說，華美的ABE課程幫我考進了Bunker Hill Community College。Richard老師非常認真負責，教我們寫作

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不一樣的愛

生命的焦點

葉陳淑淑醫生
臨床心臟專家
醫術精湛

日期：11月24日（星期五）下午3時
主題——「不一樣的愛」

日期：11月25日（星期六）下午3時
主題——「生命的焦點」

地點：昆士華人宣聖會
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102000

走上求學與就業之路

——記華美福利會的英語進階課程

彭莎

你還年輕；你受過良好的教育；你有出色的工作技能；或者雖已不年輕，但你充滿了再充實的渴望，你要學習新東西，適應新大陸，開始新生活……你來到了美國，你渾身是勁頭兒，你要努力工作，實現你的美國夢。但是，你的英語不怎麼好，或者英語基礎不錯，但你在本國所學與真實的美國社會差距甚遠；你的本國學歷不為美方所接受。這一切意味著什麼，你很清楚……你有勁沒處使，你的技能在美國這個市場上得不到認可，盡管美國經濟如日中天，就業市場十分火爆，但你就是不容易找到發揮你的技能的工作；另外由於英語不夠好，你時時處處感覺不方便，活動半徑大大變小，你的自我感覺也隨之降到冰點。你心情不好，與你的丈夫或妻兒也容易煩惱不斷，家庭感情也大受影響，真是雪上加霜。

但是如果你知道就在波士頓城中心，有一個專門擔當你走向職業市場的「踏腳石」的課程，幫助你在輕鬆愉快的環境中，熟練你的英語，教會你在各種不同的場合恰當地使用英語，向你介紹美國的中高等學校常識，教你如何利用圖書館，教會你如何用英語填表格，寫報告，記筆記，和考試常識等等，以及如何與美國人相處，瞭解美國文化的各個層面，並推介你進入大學學習，使得你最終有機會走向職業市場，找到你在美國社會中的位置，使你的夢想清晰真切起來……你還會坐困愁城嗎？

承上啓下的 ABE 課程

這個課程，簡稱為 ABE (Adult Basic English)，又叫 Transitional Pr



Richard Goldberg 正在授課

人英語教育。它比常見的 ESL 課程水準高，功用類似於高預備班，既介紹美國社會文化等情況，也有針對性地介紹美國大學情況，並由於這個項目與社區大學關係密切，使得學生轉入大學讀書變得似乎輕車熟路一般。

華美福利會的 ABE 課程已經開辦八年了。從九三年一月到二〇〇〇年九月，在該課程就讀過的學生總計有 428 人，其中 91 人畢業之後，進入二年制的大學學習，72 人進入職業訓練課程，14 人進入與高中同等學力的高中證書班就讀（即 GED 或 EDP，由波士頓公立學校系統承辦的校外證書班）。

就一個學期為一週的課程而言，這樣的成績其實是頗不簡單的。況且這些學生大多同時在打工，或雖為家庭婦女，卻正處於生育、照顧幼兒等人生重要階段，或有照料老病的父母等重任。他們的年齡大多介於二十歲之間，也有四十出頭的，還有過幾位八十多歲的老人。大多數學生是中國人，近年來開始有阿拉伯人、西班牙人、阿爾巴尼亞人、俄國人、和越南人，這更促使大家沖破心理障礙，以英語為社交語言，學習的勁頭更足，學習的效果也就更好。

該課程一年三期，最初幾年有兩個級別，現在則為四個。現在每年的學生約一百至一百二十人，每一期大約有百分之二十五的學生因各種原因而輟學，如工作時間變更，導致無法繼續學習，或搬家，或找到工作，或家庭變故，或妊娠，或生病等客觀原因而中止，但其中許多人又在下一期加入進來，還有兩年後返回該課程的。

Richard Goldberg 從九三年初一直到現在都擔任華美福利會的 ABE 課程的主要任課教師及負責人。Richard 老師向我介紹說，他們的課程設計是十分多樣化的，現有四個等級，目的是將當今最實用的活生生的英語帶進課堂，從語言的，文化的，社會的等多種角度向學生介紹美國。該課程的另外一位現任老師是 Janet Fischer，還有 Emily Damiano 承擔該課程的多語種（英語、

健康聖誕聯歡會



嘉賓：聖誕老人
日期：2000年12月2日(星期六)
時間：上午九時至下午二時
地點：昆士醫療中心教育中心
114 Whitwell Street, Quincy, MA 02169

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和基金會關係的因素。針對以上這些阻礙因素，麻州亞太裔慈善團體分會也發展出解決方針和克服目標。譬如說，十二月舉辦的「讓更多人知道活動」將提供一次讓彼此認識的機會。不僅是介紹基金會給亞裔社區的認識，同時也會有一些實際的行動。活動邀請的客人僅限於基金會，亞太裔慈善團體和亞太裔社區基層組織。

Lee表示，「華美福利協會在這次活動中扮演的角色是儘量邀請亞裔社區基層組織參與這次活動，愈多愈好。我希望有很多人來參加這項活動，而不只是基金會的代表參加而以。藉由這次的活動，讓基金會更加認識他們所要贊助的亞裔社區基層組織。」

這次的活動也會舉行座談會，討論一些亞裔社區基層組織最近發生的事務。麻州大學波士頓分校研究亞太裔事務主席Paul Watanabe在會議的開始，會先介紹一些亞太裔社區基層組織人士給大家認識。在這之後，由三位代表亞太裔社區基層組織人士做簡單提報，陳述一些影響亞太裔社區基層組織的事務。第一個提報將由代表ROCA公司的Saroeum Phoung所提出，討論一些亞太裔青年團體和組織，描述和這些亞太裔青年團體工作的一些經驗之談，和一些不同於其他族裔團體的交涉方法和策略。接下來，代表Viet AID公司的Long Nguyen將討論社區建築，重點則放在地方性亞太裔社區組織像是Lowell的高棉社區組織和Fiellds Corner的越南社區組織的經濟和勞工力量的發展情況。最後，麻州愛滋病防範計劃的Lina Sheth將討論健康醫療情形和社區暴力問題，亞太裔組織應該要用什麼特別的策略來解決社區暴力問題。三位社區人士提報之後，將由Watanabe主導公開討論會。討論的重點是亞太裔組織如何用特別地策略來解決社會問題，並且進一步的探討，如何藉由這些特別策略，來增進社區基層組織和基金會彼此之間的了解和溝通。

就如同Mark和Lui所期望，麻州亞太裔慈善團體分會希望藉由這第一次的活動達到扮演溝通橋樑的角色目標，直接有效的消除以上一些妨礙基金會和社區基層組織關係成長的因素。提到亞太裔慈善團體未來發展潛力

Esther Lee簡單描述社區基層組織和基金會目前的關係情形，「就像兩位客人同時搭乘一艘船，坐在一起，為什麼不互相自我介紹認識呢？」十二月一日亞太裔慈善團體將盡全力拉近社區基層組織和基金會彼此之間的關係。

麻州APA分會的目標

麻州亞太裔慈善團體分會成立有四大目標。藉由十二月舉辦的「讓更多人知道」活動，讓基金會能更深入了解社區基層組織。Meizhu Lui提供一些特別的方式讓分會能夠提早達到目標。

1. 建立亞太裔非營利機構和州立和全國基金會的關係。「讓更多人知道」活動將提供有關社區基層組織的一些資料。可以讓一些地方性的基金會知道亞太裔社區基層組織的存在。要讓全國性大規模的基金會知道社區基層組織，則必須要舉辦更大的活動。在這一點上，所以我們可以團結社區基層組織的力量以籌募補助金來舉辦活動。

2. 向捐贈人陳述亞太裔組織的需要。藉由這一次的活動，基金會將有機會認識亞太裔社區基層組織，而且知道他們的需求。不久的將來亞太裔慈善團體將舉辦更多的集會活動，譬如說，舉辦這些活動以增加亞太裔社區加入慈善行列。大家見賢思齊，來造福整個社會。Lui表示，「我們也可以安排類似像」讓更多人知道「的活動。譬如說，和捐款人見面「活動直接讓社區組織和捐助者接觸。」

3. 培養亞太裔團體的籌款的力量，撥出一些補助的款項用來提供課程，教育社區組織如何來籌款和擬定申請提案。Lui表示，「社區基層組織可能還不知道有那些提供教育補助金方面的基金會，亞裔諮詢專家應該要幫助社區基層組織如何向這些基金會籌募教育補助金。」

4. 向亞裔人士解釋慈善的用途和方法，Lui表示，「我們會安排一些以亞裔背景捐贈人爲主的活動，讓他們熟悉社區基層組織以培養彼此之間的關係。」

賴榮宗譯

年齡的感覺

天之凡

我的生日在農曆的除夕，正好是一年一歲，對年齡的感覺尤爲敏感。

真正覺得時間過得飛快，是在25歲以後。除了5歲、15歲，過生日就怕過「五」。過了25歲，假如婚事沒定下來，呼啦啦轉眼就到30，「大齡青年」帽子從此就戴上了。過了35，呼啦啦往40奔。過了45，半百之年立馬就到。過了55，你就準備退休吧。人一生，很不經「過」，三下兩下，就過完了。年輕人過生日，圖個熱鬧，生日蛋糕，鮮花美酒。40歲後，我就有點怕過生日。除夕之夜，躲進小屋，靜靜地想一想：一寸光陰一寸金，一歲年齡一歲人。過去的一歲幹了些什麼；未來的一歲，準備幹些什麼。「靜靜地想一想」，算是我過生日的形式吧。

同事間互相稱呼，爲了簡便，通常在姓前加一個小或一個老，小什麼，老什麼。幾十年了，聽慣了別人叫我小天。不知哪年哪月，突然有人叫我老天，叫得我心跳肉跳。老天的老，開始時一兩個年輕人這樣叫，慢慢地，叫的人多了，再後來，比我年紀大的同事、上級，也叫我老天。這才意識到，老天真正是老天了。我剛轉到現在供職的這個單位的時候，有位比我年輕得多的同事，不知我的實際年齡，叫我小天。我竟然心中竊喜，裝痴賣傻，並不說明，享受著小天的稱呼。現在，還有一兩位上級叫我小天，真希望他們不要變。我審視這種心理現象，既好笑又無奈。

年輕時，我的腳是汗腳，每天換襪子換鞋墊，否則臭不可聞。到人家做客，怕脫鞋。乘火車睡鋪蓋，趕緊用毛毯包嚴。臭腳成了一大心理負擔。人老從40歲開始，這話不差。40歲，汗腳變成了干腳，這是變老的第一個信號（不知別人的第一個信號是什麼）。每到初冬，後腳跟趾牙咧嘴，疼痛異常，小心地塗油脂，穿厚襪子，精心保護。回過頭來看我那小兒子，無論冬夏，進門就脫襪子，露出臭烘烘的腳丫，心中好生羨慕：「臭腳丫子原來散發的是青春氣息呀！」

人生有「七天說」，也有「三天說」。「七天說」是我的版權。中國人現在的平均壽命是70多歲。人生70年，好比一個星期的7天，這樣看人生，就很有些紧迫感了。0至10歲，星期一；11至20歲，星期二；過了20歲，到了星期三……如此類推，我已經到了星期五的下午了。假如您過了古稀之年，超過了平均壽命，算是進入第二個人生。

「三天說」是一位偉人的版權。他說人生只有三天，昨天、今天和明天。昨天已經過去，明天還未來到，抓得住的只有今天。「三天說」的核心是珍惜今天。

人生如蓬萊浮轉，生長、衰老、死亡是不可抗拒的自然規律。像我這樣怕老的心態大概許多人都有，怕老就有了時間的紧迫感，最要緊的：今後怎麼辦？今天怎麼過？你爲社會做了點什麼？

近年來常常想到「日暮途遠」這個詞語，想象著一個趕路的旅人，夕陽斜照，離目的地還有不短的路程，只得趕緊抖擻精神，邁開腿腳，與那一輪橘紅的落日賽跑。

古代論隱私

趙洛

當今之世，隱私兩字走俏，連書名，也會扯上「隱私」兩字，以利促銷。有的書，大肆展覽個人的私生活，令人不忍卒讀。

對於隱私，古人早有議論。今讀《韓詩外傳》第九卷第十七章，內有這樣一段故事，現錄於下：

孟子妻獨居，踞。孟子入戶視之，白其母曰：「婦無禮，請去之。」母曰：「何也？」曰：「踞。」其母曰：「何知之？」孟子曰：「我親見之。」母曰：「乃汝無禮也，非婦無禮。」《禮》不云乎：「將入戶，問孰存。將上堂，聲必揚。將入門，視必下。不掩人不備也。今汝往燕私之處，入戶不有聲，令人踞而視之，是汝之無禮也，非婦無禮也。」於是孟子自責，不敢去婦。《詩》曰：「采芣苢，無以下體。」

《韓詩外傳》是西漢文帝、景帝時燕人（今北京人）韓嬰所著。韓嬰在文帝時爲博士，景帝時爲常山王太傅，是漢代大儒，也是漢初傳授《詩經》的四大儒之一，韓詩的創立者。

這裏講的是孟子的一個故事，內容是孟子的妻子一個人在房子裏，踞，即不是兩腳放於膝下，而是伸開兩腳自在的坐著休息。這在古代會客時是一種傲慢的姿態。孟子走進房看到，向母親說，婦人無禮貌，要休去她。母親問爲什麼？孟子說，坐沒坐相，傲慢地伸腳。他母親又問，「怎麼知道的？」孟子說：「我親眼看到的。母親說：『是你的無禮，不是你妻無禮。』」禮記不是說：「將入門，問一一下有没有人。將上堂，必高聲打招呼。將入戶，必要側著眼下去看。不能乘人不防備。你去別人寢室休息的地方，進房也不出聲，硬闖進去看見別人伸腳休息。這是你的無禮，不是你妻子無禮。」於是孟子自我檢討錯誤，不再敢休妻。像《詩經·邶風》所說：「采芣苢又采蘿藦，怎麼不采地下的根塊？」意思是說凡事問個究竟。（原詩作「采芣苢，無以下體。」）

由此可見，尊重別人的隱私，不去窺視別人的隱私，是中國古代之禮。



閱古偶得

林諧倫

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● 新移民的工作甘苦談
來到他鄉，從新打拚，從新起家，面對種種新環境的挑戰，每個人都有成長與突破的心得。

歡迎您來稿與舢舨讀者分享。

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Chinese Editor, 200 Tremont St.,
Boston, MA 02116

在美國做家長須知

一。入學

彭莎

問：你的孩子可以報名入學嗎？

答：在美國，法律規定八歲以前的孩子必須入學，並且不論你或你子女是否移民身份，均須如此。你的孩子絕對有權進入公立學校就讀，學校不能以任何原因拒絕。

問：在哪个學校報名入學呢？

答：這取決於你的住處。你可向鄰居詢問，向一些政府部門詢問，或向社區組織，宗教領袖等詢問。

問：去哪個年級上課呢？

答：這視乎你子女的年齡及以前的受教育程度。一般而言，在美國，孩子五歲上小學，十二歲讀五或六年級，即初中，十五歲讀八或九年級，便要到高中了。

二。家長是寶貴的資源，是學校的伙伴

在美國，很多學校是期望家長有所參與的。家長可以多方面協助學校，確保你的孩子受到良好的學校教育。比如，你可以協助學校去認識你的文化背景，幫助學校進一步瞭解你的子女等。

問：孩子放學後，家長應該做什麼？

答：確保孩子認真完成家庭作業。一定要讓孩子明瞭你對此十分重視。你要定下時間表，在每天一定的時間段裏，他們只能作家庭作業，並在規定時間內完成。這既是對當天學校的課程的溫習，也是對第二天的準備。這樣他們在學校的表現會更好。

問：學校舉辦的活動，家長應該參加嗎？

答：是的。孩子帶回的學校活動通知就是對家長的邀請，學校需要你參與。如果你不參加，會讓學校認為該家長對子女教育不感興趣。而你的出席，對你的孩子和學校都是很重要的，讓你的孩子感到，你很關心他。你可以帶著翻譯員出席學校活動，一定不要讓語言或其他障礙妨礙你表達你對孩子和學校的支持。如果你不能帶翻譯，你也可以要求學校提供相關服務。

問：家長可以給學校當義工嗎？

答：當然。這是一個參與你的孩子的成长的好辦法。在課堂協助老師，到學校與學生談不同的文化，在旅行考察中當陪同，認識其他的家長，認識老師，有利于交流信息等。你還有機會運用你的才能或新學到的技巧，協助學校改進對你的孩子的教育。

問：家長可以成立家長組織嗎？

答：是的。在美國，成立家長組織無須取得學校的同意。事實上，一些城市的法律規定，學校是由很多家長組成的小組去治理的。在一些學區，學校是由家長及教師治理的，這名為學校基層議會。一些學校課程亦需要家長的參與。

問：怎樣參與家長組織的活動呢？

答：很多學校已有家長組織，一些是協助目前在學校進行的項目，一些是參與管理學校。若你前往參加任何小組的會議，很重要的是你是否感覺該小組令你感到受尊重，你的需要能得到認真考慮等。如果並非如此，你或許應該另組小組了。你可以與朋友一起另起爐灶。

問：家長可以向學校查詢任何有關子女教育的問題嗎？

答：是的。例如，你可以問，如果孩子沒有到校上課，學校有否設法通知家長？學校的紀律規定是什麼？你有權取得一份，亦有權要求譯本，亦有權要求學校解釋某政策。如果你有任何疑慮，你都可以向學校查詢。可以要求與學校領導面談，等。

本報徵下列人材

- **半職編排助理** 通中打、MS Office，負責細心，有寫作經驗更佳。有機會成為全職。
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請將履歷表及申請的相關項目，傳真至
(617) 482-2316，或寄至



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